

DIARY SKETCH OF CONGO TRIP ✓
July 22--August 30, 1969

by Reuben Short

Following is a brief sketch of the day to day activities during an administrative trip to Congo. Purpose of the trip in general was (1) to attend the Africa Mennonite Fellowship meetings; (2) to attend the Presidium meetings of the Mennonite World Conference convened in Kinshasa; (3) to make an official visit to the Eglise Mennonite au Congo; (4) to fellowship and counsel with CIM missionary personnel.

July 22--

Left South Bend, Indiana, 1:05 P. M.
Beautiful sunny day, temperature about 80 degrees.
Arrived New York as scheduled; left New York 10:00 P. M.
the same day.

July 23--

Arrived Brussels this morning.
Met by Donovan Unruh, Arnold Harder, and Elda Hiebert.
Went by tram to home of the Unruh's.
One bag missing but a telegram at Sabena Baggage Department assured later arrival.

Lunch at Donovan Unruh's and spent entire day with missionaries. Talked about CIM philosophy and policies, reviewed CIM affairs. Talked about assignments on the field and French language study. Both Unruh and Harder felt we could improve our place for language study--perhaps go to Paris. Discussed services offered by Brussels Bureau. Informed that much help was received from Mr. and Mrs. B. Lord, 34--36 Avenue Villegaz, Ganshoren, Belgium. Requested to send a letter of gratitude to the Lord's (did after arrival at Elkhart). Reminded to check minimum baggage costs for missionaries to Europe and Congo.

Cost of living is high in Belgium; meat roast is \$2.00 per pound; goods in general available; supermarket idea quite undeveloped; can purchase canned baby food; other goods available but often low in quality and higher priced than in States.

Pension idea is good as claimed by the single girls.

Unruh's and Harder's felt that the Administration School had much to be desired.

Health of missionaries appeared good and reported good.

July 24--

Went to Brussels Bureau for consultation with L. Daniel Ericson, Director.
Met Janet Yoder from Shishewana, daughter of Orle Yoder, serving under MCC in Brussels Bureau.
Talked about services of the Brussels Bureau.
Ericson reviewed the programs and spoke of upgrading the Administration School (school is primarily for missionaries). Problem of trying to satisfy everyone coming in with different backgrounds in language quite difficult.
Discussed the Bureau's accounting procedure; we had some difficulty understanding their procedure since it was done by a Belgian bookkeeper and a different method.
Discussed our contribution to the Bureau; found it to be about average.

Rushed off to the air terminal by tram.
Was reminded by Unruh to check on baggage insurance for the lost carton sent to them.
Elda Hiebert will remain in Belgium for one more year; she is staying at the Salvation Army headquarters.
On way to Brussels airport, met Rev. and Mrs. Marvin Hein.
Made plane connections for Kinshasa with plane departing 45 minutes late.
Rev. John Toews boarded the same plane in Geneva.
Trip to Kinshasa was very pleasant; arrived Kinshasa same day, 9:45 P. M.
Met at the airport by Kinshasa missionaries.

July 25--

Cool night, needed cover by morning.
After tasty breakfast, made tour of the new Kinshasa hostel. A lovely place, very adequate, well-built, comparable to other adequate and beautiful buildings in the area.
Builders Archie Graber, Arlo Raid, Marvin Isaac, Harold Harms, and others did a splendid job.
We got lots of building for the money invested--roomy and well-arranged.
Joyce inquired about involving CIM--Kinshasa women for mending and relief purposes since the Harms's would be alone at the hostel.
Studied a questionnaire circulated to parents of children who were at the hostel; noted an obvious unity in the responses.
10:00 A. M. went to visit Peter Sawatsky at MCC located at Union Mission House.
There talked about the TAP program in CIM.
EMC-CIM will have Dave Ritter and David Lehman as TAP teachers for 1969-70.
Also talked about the COMAS program with PAX men in CIM.

Made inquiry about relief shipments CIM had tied up at Matadi.

Mentioned to Peter Sawatsky that we desired highly qualified personnel from MCC--commented that the theological emphasis was important as well as character, adaptability, etc.

Lunch at Peter Falks, and then visited ETEK.

Took note of the thirty student houses--each a duplex capable of housing two families or a total of sixty students.

There is a dormitory for single students with a capacity of forty.

Student housing is available there for 100 students for fall of 1969.

In addition, there are faculty housing, classrooms, library, administrative offices, and food center.

A work crew was very busy struggling to have facilities ready by October.

EMC is allowed four students annually in this program; total of sixteen in a four year program.

This would mean that in ten years we could have forty additional pastors or church leaders in EMC.

Following ETEK visit, had conference at Richard Steiner home with Steiner, Buller, and Falk.

Talked about grass-roots building of the church, quality of faculty in ETEK, programs of ETEK, and possible MB fusion.

Had opportunity to see Dr. Frank Anderson of Kimpese at home of Peter Buller's.

Talked about phasing out of CIM at Kimpese--Dr. Anderson was very understanding and cordial; spoke highly of CIM personnel in Kimpese.

Anderson invited us to send Anita Janzen to Kimpese. Evening fellowship at the Peter Buller home.

July 26--

This was Kimpese day.

Peter Falk took Leona Schrag and myself to Kimpese leaving 7:00 A. M.

Lunch at Kimpese with Drs. Walter and Betty Shelly.

Made brief survey of the Kimpese complex via Tina Warkentin.

Met Mandiangu, Jean--associate administrator of the hospital who studied in New York Methodist Hospital.

Checked the Kimpese accounts so far as CIM was concerned. We still owe \$1,500.00 for 1969.

Kimpese is a 300-bed hospital with 250-300 inpatients average per day.

Doctors see 50-100 dispensary patients daily.

Kimpese is an orthopedic center, also providing other services in general.
Dr. Walter Shelly has been appointed Director of Surgery and Dr. Betty Shelly Director of Obstetrics and Gynecology.
Visited CEDEC (agricultural center of Kimpese) and also EPI--the training center at Kimpese where Theological School was located 1968-69.
Returned to Kinshasa with lunch at Falk's.
Talked further about ETEK; Annie Falk says ETEK could use eight sewing machines.

Sunday, July 27--

Breakfast at the hostel, then a brief visit in the old hostel quarters.
One side used by CIM missionaries, other side now an apartment rented to Mennonite Brethren at 60 zaires monthly.
Went to LECO for Sunday School.
Bob Kroeker served as teacher.
Following Sunday School hour, I met with EMC missionaries for one hour; gave Biblical message and talked about involvements.
Interrupted in this hour by entering of Kazadi Mathieu, Ntumba Paul, Kanda Modial.
Following church service went to Richard Steiner's for dinner.
Steiner's have tentative plans to return to the States in 1970.
Return to Congo to be negotiated.
Returned to the hostel via American School facilities, noted the housing, classrooms, athletic field, etc.
Also stopped to look at the University residence owned by CIM; is well-kept, neatly painted, well-repaired--in general good order.
Evening lunch at hostel; then to Peter Falk's to continue discussion with Kinshasa missionaries--discussion that I started in the morning.
Talked about practical things such as parental responsibility, open communication, the news sheet, other letters that have been sent to the field, new pension plan, polygamy problem.
Spirit of fellowship was excellent.

July 28--

Spent the morning in interview with the AEMSK; included Kazadi Mathieu, Maurice Ilunga, Kanda Modial, and Ntumba Paul.
Reviewed past relationships with AEMSK.
Meeting very cordial, discussed question of EMC

relating to CIM and also AEMSK.
Discussed briefly the tensions that continued to exist between AEMSK and Kabeya Kamuanga group. I explained the autonomy of EMC and our current relationship to them.
AEMSK seemed unaware of how the autonomous relationship worked.
AEMSK requested a direct line to CIM; conversation with AEMSK was primarily through spokesman Kazadi Mathieu.
Made request for missionaries and funds.

In the afternoon went back to ETEK to have conference with Duncan MacIntosh and John Marshall.
Listened to the story of how the government gave aid to the ETEK program.
Mobutu invited to explain relationship of politics and religion to ETEK group.
Before leaving, Mobutu granted \$140,000.00 for development of ETEK campus.
Comparable gifts had been given to Catholics and Kimbanguists, thus Protestants also in a co-operative movement were eligible.
ETEK is hopefully looking forward to a 200-student capacity--also for an additional grant from the government.
After the MacIntosh-Marshall consultation, I met with five EMC students studying there. Talked to them via Peter Falk as interpreter.

Tuesday, July 29--

Went to CPRA office to interview Perry Smith, director. Learned that our MAP order and 98 drums of hospital goods, microscope, hammer-mill, 1,000 pounds calcium phosphate were on the way to Kinshasa.
CIM would need to pay transportation inland and small storage fee at Matadi.
Bureau of Internal Social Affairs suddenly had inadequate funds and ceased paying inland transportation retroactive to January 1, 1969.
OTRACO ceased shipping on credit and shipping stopped March 8, 1969.
Perry Smith worked on this problem for many days and finally was able to release the goods.
CIM will need to pay inland freight--bill not yet received.

Went to Sam Bergen's office in the CPRA building. He is in charge of CEPAM--a medical pharmacy supported by various mission groups.
Sam carries inventory of goods for inland hospitals.

EMC gets some from this outlet.
CEPAM program still in struggle to get going.
Will be doing about 60,000 zaires business in 1968-69.
Ten per cent mark-up is added to drugs to build revolving fund and cover overhead.
Sam Bergen is an MB supported by United Church of Canada.
A revolving fund of \$20,000.00 now established by contributions from missions.
CIM has made no contribution to this.

Bergen and Smith reported that CPRA program is slowly phasing out.
There are no longer feeding stations nor distribution centers for clothing in Congo.
Supplies are going to some schools and hospitals.
Possible that now we will need to pay transport charges for all medical and relief goods.
Relief attention has moved from Congo to Nigeria-Biafra.
CPRA has quite a large quantity of flour, bulgar, dried milk, corn meal, clothing, and even some MCC canned meat yet on hand.

Returned to hostel for lunch.
Spent couple hours with Bertsche, V. J. and Irena Sprunger on EMC Conference and other affairs.
Informed that at Mbuji Myi Bokeleale took an EMC delegation to the AEMSK group; reconciliation not effected; Kazadi group finally asked why they came and implied there was no need for such reconciliation.
Bertsche reported that the conference was very good; constitution was adopted with minor changes; no decision on location of headquarters was reached.

Then talked about the phasing out of the Tshikapa hospital by end of 1969.
Ewert's plan to move to Charlesville in September, 1969; Ilunga, Robert was also to go to Charlesville.
Dr. James Steiner would work Kalonda and some area dispensaries which would take the place of the Tshikapa hospital.
Fanny Schmallenberger and Lois Slagle would be willing to go to Mutena.
At 4:00 P. M. I sat in on the AMF (Africa Mennonite Fellowship) meeting.
Report was given on Christ-For-All in Congo by Bomans Vincent.
Reported in CIM there are currently 800 prayer cells, 96 people on various committees, 120 rallies have been held, there were 1,560 new decisions along with 500 renewals in 1969, also there were 120 meetings for women.

1. Increase membership
2. Make membership more meaningful
3. Continue enthusiastically teaching

There were some evaluations made by a committee as follows:

1. Protestants are no longer timid and witness openly
2. New doors have opened--like public schools
3. Prisons, military camps have been visited with favorable results
4. The population has heard a witness as it has never heard before
5. The government has realized the strength of the Protestant community through this effort
6. Many believers have been renewed
7. There has been an awakening and this awakening should continue
8. The Christ-For-All group intends to double the current efforts

It was noted that the literacy level in Congo is now about 60%.

The evening session of the Africa Mennonite Fellowship consisted of a report on Somalia.

This was followed by a report given by Tshilembu Nicodeme on education in Congo.

July 30--

Africa Mennonite Fellowship meetings continued with Bible study by Kazadi Mathieu.

Followed by a paper on "Christian Nurture" by Ivan Elrich. This followed by a paper done by Kiros, an African from Ethiopia, emphasizing Christian nurture, Kiros called attention to the priority of theological training as against other training.

In afternoon went with group to tour ETEK, LECO, and city Kimbanguist Church, also saw various sections of African city life.

Had the evening with the Henry Dirks.

At Dirks' home talked about LECO and family affairs. Dirks emphasized that Larry Rempel's were desired back in LECO.

July 31--

Entire day spent with the Africa Mennonite Fellowship. Bible study by Kazadi Mathieu.

Discussion of "Church in Africa" by Don Jacobs.

Jacobs emphasized that to solve the stewardship problem we should work as follows:

1. Increase membership
2. Make membership more economically productive
3. Continue stewardship teaching

Jacobs said, "It is difficult for the church to absorb the younger and better qualified leadership."

Jacobs felt there was too much automatic evangelism by way of the school.

The urban problem has not yet been taken seriously (hopefully ETEK will do some of this for us).

Style of Christian living will need to change in Africa.

Warmth for humanity is essential as we look into the future.

More and more there will be government control.

There will also be centralization of economic life.

National service will no doubt become compulsory.

Churches with several tribes may suffer being torn apart.

Following the Don Jacobs paper, James Bertsche gave a paper.

Bertsche said, "Pressing assignment now is to help the young churches understand their responsibility and role."

Emerging church is unable to carry the financial burden alone.

People need to be motivated by deep inner compulsion in contrast to material reward.

Absolute necessity to maintain spiritual vitality, that distinctiveness exists and touches other lives.

Some responses to the papers:

Weaver--Africa does not distinguish body and soul as minutely as Western World or Western Christianity.

Nicodeme--Raised the question as to what is gained by transfer from mission to church, if mission and church march together--no problem.

Belete--Problem is not mission and church but rather young and old.

Modial--Rich and poor can never be married, unity must come from above, the rich mission and poverty of the church make fusion very difficult.

Bomans Vincent--Why should mission withdraw? Programs of kind be the decision of the church with mission as a supporting role.

Oosterban--Said we should send teachers, technicians, to the overseas church--not missionaries.

Jacobs--We dare not think of withdrawal.

Following this session I met with a panel to plan for a panel discussion the following day.

Evening session was continued with reports from Ethiopia and Tanzania.

This was followed by a report from Peter Sawatsky on MCC activity functioning in nine African Countries; said about 200 persons were involved.

1. Relief is on the decrease in Congo, government policy is such that there has been a change on paying the transportation which will curtail relief work in Congo.
2. We may expect a shift from direct relief to assistance in programs; rural areas will need to absorb more people because of urban congestion.
3. There are plans for an increase in the TAP program.
4. MCC is actively pursuing contacts with Kimbanguists; MCC is placing TAP teachers there and also planning on two PAX men; they are also exploring the possibility of teachers in the Kimbanguist Theological School.
5. MCC currently works only through the missions to the church.

August 1--

Africa Mennonite Fellowship meetings continued; morning Bible study by Ed Weaver.

Panel discussion on "Mission-Church Relations".

Discussion dealt with mission-church suspicion of each other; also, reluctance on part of mission to release authority and responsibility to church.

Afternoon I went to the CPC office to visit Mr. Bokaleale-- spent almost two hours with him.

Bokaleale commended work of Mennonites in Congo.

Appeared to be no tensions between his office and our program.

Missionaries going to Congo for the first time may get goods in customs free by getting an attestation from the CPC office. Mission cars can be brought in customs free via an attestation from CPC.

I discussed AEMSK with Bokaleale.

Bokaleale advised we should not have a direct line of communication with this group, but rather invite them to have joint representation on a central committee for such purpose; direct line would only tend to further disunity.

He encouraged the dream of unifying AEMSK, EMC, and MB.

He favors the Tshikaji hospital nurses' training school.

Left me with the impression he was willing to work with a system that was workable and effective.
We talked about EMC and CIM Personalite Civile; he raised question as to why the two were necessary.
Bokeleale obviously interested in further ecumenical procedures.

Evening with Africa Mennonite Fellowship.
Heard tape on the Nigerian situation via Ed Weaver.
Following tape, a paper by Victor Dorsch on "Where Are You Going in Training?"

August 2--

Africa Mennonite Fellowship meetings continued.
Study of Acts 8 and 9 by Ed Weaver.
Panel conducted by Paul Kraybill on "The International Mennonite Picture as of 1969".
Don Jacobs talked about the various Councils now existing in Africa.
Don also called attention to the activities of the Africa Mennonite Fellowship as follows:

1. A news sheet occasionally sent out
2. Fraternal visits between churches
3. Work with the Mennonite World Conference
4. Distribution of peace literature
5. Correspondence between various church groups
6. Observer presence in international meetings
7. Preparation for the Africa Mennonite Fellowship meetings

Following this presentation by Jacobs, there was the business meeting, a continuation from the afternoon, with decision that Africa Mennonite Fellowship should continue.

August 3--

Sunday morning a group of us went to a Kimbanguist service--service was held outdoors--Dr. Waltner gave greetings from the Mennonite World Conference.

Following this service, we went to the ABFMS chapel to hear Falange Eli of CIM and Jojo of Indonesia in a morning worship service.

After lunch at the hostel, listened to Bokeleale for almost two hours.

Bokeleale went into history of Congo prior to 1960, then Congo from 1960-65, and then 1965 to today.

His stress was on fusion of mission and church; stressed unity with diversity.

We raised questions about the church in Congo; we asked him what he really meant by the "United Church in Congo"; his

idea of one church is simply "Church of Christ in Congo" section of Mennonites, etc. He calls it unity with diversity.

Evening went to the Protestant Church in Kinshasa; listened to a Men's Chorus and Don Jacobs gave the evening message.

August 5, 6, and 7--

Spent in Mennonite World Conference Presidium meetings; I continue with my report picking up on August 8.

August 8--

Spent the morning downtown looking around and shopping. In the afternoon visited LECO and Menno Travel Service. In evening had another consultation with the AEMSK group; received letter to present to the board. Then spent remainder of evening talking with Harold and Joyce Harms discussing hostel affairs. Discussed matter of setting up a hostel committee to serve as a board for Harold and Joyce (this is being carried through). Also talked about a bus for the hostel--we would sell the Dodge and possibly purchase a Toyota bus large enough to transport all in one trip. Talked about hostel accounting; clarified some questions.

August 9--

Continued consultation with Harold and Joyce Harms. Discussed matter of how to use hostel facilities during the summer. Should facilities be used for transit missionaries--how do Harms's fit into this? Concluded that this should be an item to be discussed by the newly formed hostel committee.

In evening had dinner at local hotel with Harold and Joyce Harms, Leona Schrag, and Vernon and Irena Sprunger.

Sunday, August 10--

Left Kinshasa 7:15 A. M. via Air Congo for Tshikapa. At Tshikapa airport met by CIMex's as well as Congolese officials. Dinner with the Tshikapa group at the Ewert home--present were Dr. and Mrs. James Steiner, Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Ewert, Lois Slagle, Aggie Friessen, Leona Schrag, Mary Epp, and Anna V. Liechty.

In evening had potluck dinner at the James Bertsche home at Kalonda.

Following dinner went to the Institut Biblique library and exchanged greetings with missionaries and Congolese officials--gave a brief general message. This was a time of fellowship and getting reacquainted.

Monday, August 11--

Breakfast with Tina Quiring.

Then a visit to the literature rooms on the Kalonda station--obviously she needs a center for her work and more storage facilities.

Spent the remainder of the A. M. with James Bertsche on affairs in general.

Talked about the Annual Conference at Kabeya Kamuanga.

Reported the next Annual Conference would be at Kalonda.

Talked about the location of headquarters and problems relating thereto.

Discussed the South Kasai situation and problem with AEMSK group.

Talked about the hostel program and need for a hostel committee.

Noon dinner with Fanny Schmallenberger and Frieda Guengerich. Visited the Sam Entz garage--took note of his road-grader invention.

Sam also making a pump jack for getting water at Nyanga. Had the Mukedi light plant motor in his garage for repair. Took note of the EMC pick-up and chauffeur Wango Moise. To Sam Entz's for supper.

Evening of fellowship and exchange of information with Tshikapa-Kalonda missionaries at Bertsche home.

Spoke to group from I Timothy and discussed various mission affairs.

Talked about priorities, teamwork, and family needs.

Raised the question of missionary salaries with no special responses

Tuesday, August 12--

Breakfast at James Bertsche's.

Visited bookstore at Tshikapa and then to Tshikapa hospital.

Drs. Ewert and Steiner showed me hospital complex.

Met also with administrators of the hospital--Bombo Chrispin and Mukendi George.

Aggie Friesen reported a present average of forty babies born weekly.

Congolese aids do some feeding of undernourished patients.

Had private interviews with Dr. Steiner and Dr. Ewert.

Dinner at Ewert's.

Back to Kalonda via EMC pick-up to meet with Kalonda district council.

Talked about church growth, church strength, plateau of effort, waves of growth, need for more dynamic effort in service and witness, and they requested help in evangelism; I felt the meeting was very profitable.

Evening spent with Frieda Guengerich and Fanny Schmallenberger.

Wednesday, August 13--

Breakfast at 8:30 AM. Home with plans to leave for Mutema today.

Because of airplane being in process of repair and an emergency at Charlesville, trip was delayed.

Spent the day interviewing missionaries and a trip to Ishikapa side to visit chaplain of hospital-- Shidi Lazarus.

In the evening led the prayer meeting at the Tina Quiring house where Kalonda group met.

Thursday, August 14--

Breakfast with Fanny Schmallenberger and Frieda Guengerich.

Conversation dwelt on Congolese responsibility, initiative, organization, and church action.

Left for Mutema at 10:00 A. M.

Upon arrival at Mutema, met by church leaders at airport, and then made a tour of the station.

Observed that buildings need considerable repair. At maternity, Mufusa Anna--midwife--handles about twenty maternity cases monthly.

Dinner of bidia and chicken at Pastor's house.

Met with church council in church.

Council requested a missionary evangelist, vehicle for travel to remote areas, a doctor, and funds to operate program.

Stewardship at this station had deteriorated some, pastor complained of not having good enough trousers to wear for a Sunday AM service.

From here flew to Lake Munkamba--saw Earl Roth and Elmer Dick families; also Hulda Banman.

Present was the Kabeya Kamuanga group for a time of consultation.

Kamuanga group made request for personnel and funds. I raised the question of relating to AEMSK since they came from adjacent areas.

Suggested that probably we could send one person who could work with both groups.

Response was that this would be very difficult to

do; reconciliation has been tried with futulity. Emphatically stated that if we do something for AEMSK we must first do something for them.

Lake Munkamba cottage is very lovely; no electricity but a restful place, can ski on the lake--should provide a pleasant vacation for missionaries. Left by air in time to get to Luluabourg for the night. Had supper with the Charles Sprunger's and took a look at the new Studiproka headquarters. This is a cooperative venture of Mennonites--30%, Presbyterians--45%, and Methodists--25%. Currently there is one 30-minute program and one 15-minute program each Sunday plus a 15-minute program of music early Sunday AM. I stressed that it was necessary for so large an investment to get greater production. There is still a little work to be done on the interior of the building, but nothing that would hamper production. Steps should be taken to triple and quadruple production for the amount of investment.

August 15--

Breakfast with Charles Sprunger's. A visit with the Luluabourg officials at the church. Church has walls started but far from completed; services are held under grass roof within the unfinished church walls. Church council requested help mentioning Waldo Harder's, Allan Wiebe's, Levi Keidel's, Omar Sutton's, and Rudy Martens'. Church also requested financial aid to finish church. My response was to suggest a loan for the church via EMC; income from the church is now about 180-200 zaires per annum; reported attendance is 200-400 per Sunday. After consultation, church council took me to a large plot of ground consisting of 6½ hectares (13 acres) on which they had made a down payment of about 150 zaires for a mission center. Apparently they had the idea that here should be another mission station with missionaries, school, dispensary, maternity, etc., comparable to other mission stations. They can have this plot of ground for this purpose with very little investment if they develop it within the next three years. Of course they needed a substantial amount of money to do all of this. I informed them that we at present would not be interested in developing this and if anything would be done it would be a responsibility of the EMC; obviously they were disappointed.

I then visited the Liproka establishment.
Had consultation Lack Vas.
Liproka program was suffering financial loss the past year.
Sales were down and there was an increase in stolen goods and retention of funds from goods sold by Congolese.

Drove then to Tshikaji via Charles Sprunger's vehicle and took a look at the hospital site as well as home where Dr. and Mrs. Zook would be living.
Then went to airport and flew to Lubondai where Presbyterians were having a retreat.
Conferred with Dr. William Rule, Dr. Hugh Farrior, Bill Washburn and a Mr. Harris.
They reviewed the Tshikaji hospital story which was similar to what we had already heard.
They are negotiating with a German engineer-architect-builder to see if he might be available to do the project as a package deal.
Dr. Rule said they would be very happy if we merely transferred our interest in Kimpese to Tshikaji.
We are needed there to make possible receipt of foundation funds to complete this project. Of course such funds are not yet guaranteed by such cooperation.
Returned to Kalonda.

Saturday, August 16--

Breakfast at the Sam Entz home.
After breakfast, Vernon Sprunger, Dr. James Steiner, and Sam Entz came to request use of about \$200.00 and the Nyanga pump to get water from a spring at Kalonda.
I approved the project since we already have the pump and \$200.00 spent in making water available would be a wonderful asset to Kalonda.

At 11:00 AM the EMC executive committee met with the OFFICE people at Tshikapa.
Purpose was to reject moving of mission from Tshikapa.
However, EMC executives stood adamant and replied decision to move was final.
No further rent would be paid as of July 1, 1969, but we would pay rent on the houses used.

In the afternoon met with the EMC Administrative Committee with agenda as follows:

1. Tshikapa--Tshikaji move
2. AEMSK, MB, EMC relationships
3. Operational phasing out by CIM from EMC
4. Possible students to America
5. Delegation to Congo
6. Establishment of headquarters

7. CPC dues due through EMC
8. Personnel for the next five years
9. Loans--such as requested by Luluabourg
10. EMC accounts--especially administration
11. Integration--fusion

Sunday, August 17--

I spoke at the Kalonda church service with Panny Schmellenberger translating.

Dinner with Kakesa Samuel.

In the afternoon met once more with the EMC Administrative Committee to complete business.

Traveled in afternoon from Tshikapa to Nyanga with grand reception at the airport.

First order of business was a meeting with the Nyanga council at which time they presented their needs.

Needs presented were:

1. Provision for transportation
2. A mud block house for a missionary
3. Need for more dedicated laymen
4. Need for an evangelistic missionary
5. Someone to care for the destitute and orphaned

Nyanga council mentioned the problem of trained Congolese personnel coming back to the station. Such personnel demanded a level of living too high to be absorbed by the local community.

Went to John Klaassen home for supper and then to Dr. John Byler home for an evening of fellowship with the missionaries. Here I gave a message from Timothy and talked about things in general.

Monday, August 18--

Breakfast at the Mary Epp and Mary Penner home.
Spoke in the morning chapel time at the church.
Took a guided tour through the dispensary, maternity, existing wards, TAP house, carpenter shop, book-store--in fact, the whole station.

Noon dinner at Pastor Muhago Boniface home.

Afternoon spent touring the COMAS project of Tryphonse--a Congolese trained by Fremont Regier. Tryphonse has a farm which has rabbits, chickens, ducks, two incubators--one 90-egg and one 60-egg. Said he gets 60% hatches. Gets two zaires for a mature breeding rabbit; 1.50--1.75 zaires for a hen; 1.75--2 for a breeding rooster.

In evening, a potluck dinner at the George Wall residence where again I spoke to the missionaries with meeting held on the lawn.

August 19--

Breakfast at Marvin Isaac home.

Reviewed the experiences of the past year at the hostel. Went to the COMAS project taking the \$9.98 tour offered by Fremont Regier.

Saw the entire COMAS center at Nyanga.

Informed Fremont and Sara that we were depending on them to continue with their creative thinking in regard to COMAS (Arnold Harder's joined them a few days after I left).

Noon lunch with Anna V. Liechty.

Then consultation with the John Klaassen's who anticipate furlough in 1970 for a period of two years.

About 4:30 PM left for Charlesville via MAF plane to remain for the night with Glenn Rocke's.

August 20--

Breakfast at the Rocke's and I spoke at the morning chapel time at the Charlesville church.

Following chapel period we had council meeting with the Charlesville leaders.

Made a survey of the station and saw the Charlesville COMAS project; Les Schlegel and Joe Shetler are responsible PAX men here.

Examined the house Dr. and Mrs. Ewert now occupy on the Charlesville station.

Saw the school and shop where the Wilmer Sprunger's will be working; also the house where Sprunger's will be living.

Took a good look at the four wards in the hospital area which are badly in need of cleaning and repair.

Noted that the school building also needed repair.

Had noon meal with Robert Ilunga's; menu included bidia, chicken, fish, rice, peanuts, bananas, and a drink.

Flew on to Banga and was greeted by the station Council and others.

Had a service in the church at which time they presented a paper to me in English.

Took note of the place where the new dispensary is to be built and already some blocks are on hand; informed them that money would be available for this dispensary.

Buildings are badly in need of repair at this place.

Had a dinner of bidia and chicken at the pastor's house.

Back to Nyanga for the evening and I continued in private consultations until bedtime.

A major item of discussion was that of language study for new missionaries; there is no Gipende text making it difficult to study this language; currently Sara Regier is teaching the new missionaries (Isaac's, Byler's, and Penner) the Gipende.

Thursday, August 21--

Breakfast at Dr. John Byler's.

Awakened with considerable stomach distress--two meals of bidia the previous day wanted out; I gladly heaved them.

Went to Mukedi for the day.

Took a good look at the station; saw seven residences; three of which are in real good order and some of the others in process of being fixed up. There are twelve school dorms--some needing repair. Arlo Raid has the maternity in good order and also the hospital; hospital was completed with the exception of some ceiling and some plumbing and painting.

Had a meeting with the Mukedi church council in which there was obvious gratitude and delight that personnel was coming back to Mukedi.

Returned to Nyanga and Fremont Regier's for supper.

Fremont and Sara commented on the need for Bible study and inspirational addresses from time to time. Stressed the need for annual retreats.

Friday, August 22--

On the previous day we left Kakesa Samuel at Mukedi to do some unfinished business.

We went back to Mukedi on the way to Kandala.

Met at Kandala by a host of people led by Pastor Kabangy Moise who spoke fairly good English.

Took a look at the station led by the pastor.

Saw the new dispensary built by Archie Graber with money from Kornelia Unrau.

Buildings were in good order and well-organized inside. Had dinner at the pastor's home as well as a council meeting at the church.

From here flew to Kamayala and had a royal reception there. Took a good look at the station; Pastor Marc Kandumba serves here.

Had evening meal at the Ben Eidsa home with all missionaries participating.

Was informed that they had no mail for five or six weeks at times.
I gave instruction that mail should be gotten there every couple weeks if at all possible.

Saturday, August 23--

Breakfast at the Melvin Claassen's.
Before breakfast I spoke at the Kamayala chapel service.
Visited the Kamayala station from end to end.
Noted the COMAS program of rabbits, chickens, hogs, and ducks raised by Mel Claassen.
Also have here a herd of cattle given by CPRA.
After the cattle cooperative has eight calves, the original herd is passed onto someone else, they keep the calves and let them multiply accordingly; Mel however, said that most of the calves were males and so multiplication would be very slow.
Houses on this station were in fair condition with the exception of the house in which the Eidse's live; this house is actually in danger of collapsing.
Suggested that this house be razed and materials placed in a small PAX house as well as a social center where women's meetings could be held; suggested we use \$2,000.00 of the Neuhauser funds for this purpose.

Ben showed us where he was doing his translation in a small office at the church. Ben does this very religiously each day having set hours for the work; Congolese assist him.

Had a meeting with Bertha Miller, agreed to let her remain in Congo until the summer of 1970; she should then plan to return to the States with the Mel Claassen's; this would give her opportunity to phase out her work and make the preparation to return to the States. I told her I would work on the idea of providing a pension comparable to the retired missionaries which currently was \$50.00 monthly; will need to work on this at home.

In the afternoon we left for Kikwit arriving 5:30 PM.
On the way dropped a letter to the Shamawanga group sending our greetings.
Arrived at Kikwit; had supper at Pastor Andre's home and then to the Ivan Elrich home for the night.

Sunday morning, August 24--

Breakfast with the single ladies of the ANBM.
Went to the Kikwit church on the Toyota truck and spoke in the morning service.
Following the morning meeting, had a council meeting with the Kikwit church council.
Then dinner at the Pastor Kabata Andre home.

Spent the afternoon resting in the Ernest Dyck house.

In evening had lunch with Ivan Elrich then spoke to the AMBM missionaries in the home of Henry Dirksen; had a good time of fellowship with these people.

Monday, August 25--

Breakfast at the Ervin Friesen home.

Ervin is in charge of the literature distribution in the area.

Had an EMC Administrative Committee meeting in the forenoon discussing our findings.

Back to the Ben Klassen home for dinner--Klassen is a teacher in the secondary school.

Then took our flight to Kinshasa with a stop at Kenge to pick up a Baptist missionary.

James Bertsche went with me to Kinshasa where we spent the evening and the next day discussing the trip.

August 26 to 28--

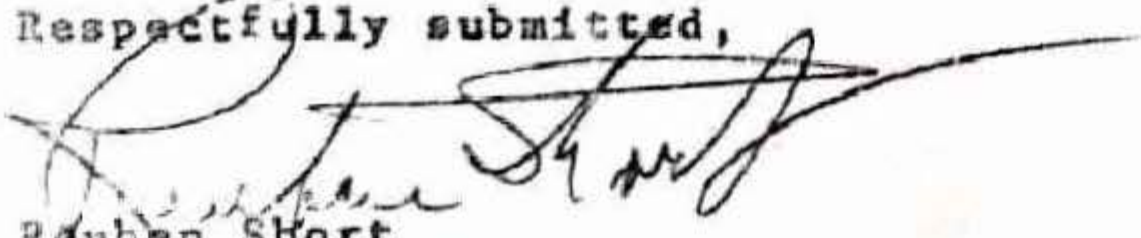
Met the evening of August 26 with Kinshasa missionaries and reported on my observations to the interior.

Spent the remainder of my time writing up my report and preparing to return to the States.

Plane was delayed for one day because of motor problems so had an extra day in Congo to summarize findings.

I felt the trip was very worthwhile. Someone should make this trip every couple years. It serves as an encouragement to the Eglise Mennonite au Congo and I believe a tonic to our missionary colleagues there. We cannot possibly feel the pulse of this work at so great a distance.

Respectfully submitted,



Reuben Short
Executive Secretary

RS:rs